

~~TOP SECRET~~

40053-0-05257
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DRAFT/26 June 1959

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Dear Mr. President:

With the concurrence of the Secretary of Defense, and on his recommendation, it is proposed to include in the series of space vehicle firings under Project CORONA, administered by this agency and the Advanced Research Projects Agency of the Department of Defense, four additional ^{Satellite} flights during the summer of 1960 for the purposes of obtaining precise geodetic fixes and an extension of existing datum planes throughout the Soviet Union. Total cost of this project is estimated to be to be funded from within current Department of Defense appropriations.

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This addition to the program is deemed to be one of critical importance to precise location of target complexes associated with the U.S. deterrent posture. It is also considered urgent that this data be obtained at the earliest possible time because of the anticipated availability of a large missile force in the 1961-62 time period and in the light of the possibility that observations of this type may politically and technically be denied at a later time.

Administration of the program will be entirely consistent with Project CORONA and will be conducted entirely within covert channels. The DISCOVERER Program will be employed as cover. As with Project CORONA, it is, of course, understood that your specific approval for flight operations will be required prior to initiation. Your approval of this project is respectfully requested.

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Faithfully yours,

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